


CODIB-D-107/7
2 March 1964
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

Foreign Intelligence Objectives No. 3: Progress Report

1. Attached per para. 4 of CODIB-M-53 (25 Feb 64) is a draft statement. Could we have your telephoned concurrence/comment by noon Thursday, 5 March? Should a special meeting be required, it would have to be Friday, 6 March to enable us to meet the 9 March deadline.

2. It is recognized that should the USIB act on the SCIPS report (yet to be delivered) prior to delivery to Mr. Bundy of the progress report on the six intelligence objectives, a re-draft of this objective would be required.


Secretary

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2 March 1964

Progress Report on
United States Foreign Intelligence
Objective No. 3:
Automatic Data Processing

1. The study of the Community's information processing systems referred to in reference (b) has been completed. The study, a review of it by an outside panel of consultants, and an evaluation by the USIB Committee on Documentation (CODIB) are now being considered by the Intelligence Board.
2. These efforts address themselves to a wide spectrum of problems. Included are specific recommendations for action on many matters relating to the processing of information, among them an adverse recommendation on establishing a national center for indexing intelligence documents, primarily for two reasons: (a) a single deep indexing system is considered presently infeasible; and (b) a central indexing activity is considered neither necessary nor wise.
3. Alternative proposals for providing the Community with additional expert staff support to pursue solutions to its information processing problems have been considered. The SCIPS study group and the panel of consultants recommended the

References: (a) Mr. McGeorge Bundy's memo of 17 June 63
(b) DCI response of 9 Sept 63
(c) D/DCI/NIPE memo to Chairman, CODIB of 14 Feb 64

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establishment of a permanent interagency body of sufficient size to cover the problem areas. CODIB, however, has rejected this approach in favor of a number of ad hoc panels to be supported by a small permanent executive secretariat (group of documentalists). CODIB not only found excessive the time necessary to build up a sizable competent permanent group (unless this were done at the expense of promising in-house programs), but considers counterproductive any plan which calls for solutions developed by specialists not themselves involved in departmental information handling operations.

4. We have received reports of progress from the National Academy of Sciences regarding the establishment of its advisory committee on automatic language processing. This disinterested group is to advise the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Science Foundation on research and development in the general field of the mechanical handling of languages, including their translation.

5. We have also just received a response from the Science Advisor to the President to our inquiry on means of stepping up the national effort to break through particularly critical information processing problems. Discussions on his proposals are being scheduled with Dr. Hornig and representatives of Dr. Brown, Director of Defense Research and Development.

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6. USIB action on the Community study mentioned above will be expedited and be as responsive as possible to the attainment of this intelligence objective. Both the report and the record of USIB action thereon will shortly be forwarded to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board for its information. These will of course be available to you also.

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